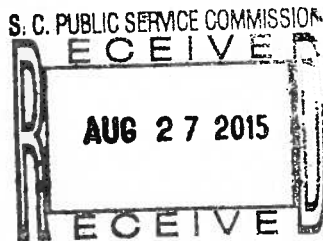


August 24, 2015

TO: Duke Power

FROM: Board of Directors, White Oak Mountain Association- A. Keith Bridges, Ed.D., Pres.



NO NEW RIGHT OF WAYS

DEVASTATION PLANNED BY DUKE ENERGY

There are many negatives to Duke Energy's plan to install high voltage electrical transmission lines across Polk County and the surrounding area. What Duke Power calls progress, many people in the area call devastation. If there was one bit of environmental concern on the part of Duke Power, such a route would not be under consideration.

We write representing approximately 200 members of a homeowners' association who will each and all be adversely affected individually and collectively by this plan and specifically segment 5 of the plan which would scar the entire face of White Oak Mountain, near Columbus, North Carolina. This mountain is prominent among others and obviously most noticed as traffic enters North Carolina from the South.

This proposed route would not only be devastating to those in Polk County but to every visitor who enters our state on Interstate 26 or passes through going east. Traffic counts by the North Carolina Department of Transportation indicate that tens of thousands of visitors each day use this route. They will see miles of damaged mountainside which would remain scarred far beyond the life of a power line; and, their opinions and attitudes of the Carolinas will forever be affected. We feel that it is totally within the control of Duke's decision-makers to avoid such unending devastation. The decisions made now can never be reversed. There must be a better way.

There are many pristine areas, historic sites, Native American burial grounds, cemeteries, endangered plant species, animal habitats, springs, and wetlands in this area. There are several land conservatories with many acres set aside permanently. The environmental impact of these lines would be detrimental to the area; the negative impact on scenic and pristine lands would be immense.

We admonish decision makers to know or be reminded that all public meetings were heavily attended. They were chaotic to say the least. As we waited for the weather to clear in Landrum it was obvious no one came away happy. Opposition is extremely high because of the effect this would have on the area, not just one individual property. The meeting in Landrum was held during a major thunderstorm, parking was totally inadequate and the facility was over crowded. Although, Duke had upward of 100 employees or a public relations company there to speak with the public, they were busy for the entire session but there was no general presentation and gave few answers to anyone who had done any study before hand. The Flat Rock meeting was a mob too large for the facilities. What was publicized by Duke as informational meetings were indeed non-informational meetings. We point this out to emphasize the point that opposition is great toward the project as proposed. The project has been in the planning stages for several years yet Duke makes this announcement one month and expects all public input to be done by the next month. We suggest a completely new study be done.